Sandy Briggs, center, and Laurie Sticklen, right, receive flags in honor of their husbands, Timothy Briggs and James Sticklen, respectively, who died in the line of duty in 2011.

Kentucky Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson served as the ceremony's keynote speaker, recognizing the loss of Kentucky's public servants.

Her hands trembling, her smile grateful, Laurie Sticklen tightly clutched the bright, crisply-folded American flag presented to her. As her husband's name and date of death were read aloud to the mournful silence, Sticklen held the flag close to her heart, her recent grief still weighing on her small frame.

"Friends, this is a solemn occasion," said James Korpik, Alexandria Police chaplain and colleague of Sticklen's husband, James P. Sticklen. "We are taught that greater love has no one than to lay down one's life for another. These mentioned today died in the line of what we call duty, and what they believe was their special calling and service. They offered life itself so that we could live in safety and security."

James Sticklen was one of 16 officers honored Tuesday during the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial's 13th annual ceremony. The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument is the only monument in the commonwealth that recognizes all Kentucky peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty. This year's additions bring the total number of names on the monument to 501.

Sticklen and Federal Bureau of Investigations Special Agent Timothy Briggs both died in 2011. The other 14 officers were killed in the line of duty between 1869 and 1964.

Sticklen had served the Alexandria Police Department for 19 years, most recently as a school resource officer. He suffered a fatal heart attack as the result of injuries he sustained after being kicked in the leg while restraining a juvenile. He suffered a pulmonary embolism when a blood clot broke free from the injured leg. In addition to his wife, Sticklen is survived by his three children.

Briggs was jogging with another agent at the Federal Bureau of Investigation office in London when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Despite efforts to resuscitate him, Briggs did not survive the attack. He, too, is survived by his wife and three children.

Briggs spent 14 years with the FBI and had a reputation for being a passionate investigator. He won national awards for a >>